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(Date) 6-5-98

Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on draft programmatic EIS/EIR

Farmers in (my region) have a number of specific concerns about Cal-Fed's proposals.

At the same time as it works to solve environmental problems in the bay-delta region, Cal-Fed must also assure that it meets the needs of farmers, industries and urban residents. Cal-Fed's solutions must bring more reliable water supplies and improved water quality to our state's human residents.

The solutions must include significant new water storage. We can't meet the needs of both the environment and the rapidly increasing population without it.

Conservation alone cannot provide enough water to meet all our needs. The most important form of conservation we can use is to save excess water during wet years, collecting it in reservoirs for use when it's needed to meet environmental and human needs during future droughts.

The cost of delta improvements and new water supplies must be shared fairly. Those who create demand and will benefit directly from new supplies must pay for them.

We recognize that new water development will require some land to be taken out of agricultural production. But Cal-Fed proposes to convert hundreds of thousands of acres of prime farmland with good water rights. California farmland is a global resource and its conversion must be minimized.

Cal-Fed must strengthen water rights and must not base its solutions on redirection of agricultural water and conversion of farmland.

Farmers want Cal-Fed to succeed, but we won't accept solutions that don't benefit agriculture in our region and statewide.

Sincerely,

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DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES
SACRAMENTO

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